

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MBFR VIENNA 0192

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJ: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS; APRIL 8 WESTERN PLENARY STATEMENT

1. AT THE ONE HUNDRED AND FIRST PLENARY MEETING OF THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS ON APRIL 8 CHAIRMANED BY US REP, SOVIET REP (KHLESTOV) AND US REP DELIVERED THE ONLY STATEMENTS. SOVIET REP'S STATEMENT IS REPORTED BY SEPTEL. IN HIS STATEMENT, US REP STRESSED THE MERITS OF THE WESTERN PROPOSALS OF DEC 16 AS PROVIDING THE BEST BASIS FOR ENDING THE CURRENT IMPASSE IN THE VIENNA TALKS. THE MAIN POINTS OF US REP'S STATEMENT WERE:

A. WHEN THE NEGOTIATIONS RESUME IN MID-MAY, THE WESTERN PROPOSALS OF DEC 16 WILL HAVE BEEN ON THE TABLE FOR FIVE MONTHS.

B. THE WEST VIEWS THE INTRODUCTION OF THESE PROPOSALS AS A
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DECISIVE ACT AND POTENTIAL TURNING POINT, SINCE THEY OFFER A

PRACTICAL WAY OUT OF THE CURRENT IMPASSE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS.

C. WESTERN HOPES THAT THESE PROPOSALS WOULD RECEIVE THE POSITIVE EASTERN RESPONSE WHICH THEY MERIT AND LEAD TO PRACTICAL PROGRESS IN THE TALKS UNFORTUNATELY HAVE NOT YET BEEN REALIZED.

D. THE WESTERN OFFER IS MILITARILY SIGNIFICANT AND RESPONDS REALISTICALLY TO STATED EASTERN CONCERNS WITHOUT ASKING FOR INCREASED REDUCTIONS ON THE EASTERN SIDE.

E. THROUGHOUT THE NEGOTIATIONS THE WEST HAS STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF DEALING CONSTRUCTIVELY WITH THE SERIOUS INEQUALITY IN GROUND FORCES IN THE AREA.

F. EASTERN ADVANTAGES IN GROUND FORCE MANPOWER AND MAIN BATTLE TANKS ARE ENHANCED BY THE ENDURING ADVANTAGE OF THE GEOGRAPHICAL PROXIMITY OF THE USSR.

G. WESTERN PARTICIPANTS DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHY, IN THE LIGHT OF THE ASSERTION THAT THEY ARE PURSUING A POLICY OF DETENTE, WARSAW PACT GOVERNMENTS FIND IT NECESSARY OR JUSTIFIED TO INSIST ON MAINTAINING AN IMPORTANT GROUND FORCE SUPERIORITY IN THE AREA OF REDUCTIONS.

H. GIVEN THE GEOGRAPHIC AND OTHER RELEVANT FACTORS, THE GOAL OF APPROXIMATE PARITY IN GROUND FORCES IN THE AREA PROPOSED BY THE WEST IS REASONABLE AND EQUITABLE, AND WILL REMAIN A CARDINAL WESTERN REQUIREMENT.

I. THE EAST, HOWEVER, HAS NOT ACCEPTED THIS GOAL, CONTENDING THAT ITS REALIZATION WOULD GIVE THE WEST UNILATERAL ADVANTAGES.

J. BUT THIS CONTENTION IS UNFOUNDED, SINCE THE REDUCTIONS AND LIMITATIONS THE WEST NOW IS OFFERING MAKE WHAT THE WEST IS WILLING TO DO AT LEAST EQUAL TO WHAT IT IS ASKING FROM THE EAST.

K. AN EQUITABLE OUTCOME CANNOT BE ACHIEVED BY TREATING DIFFERENTLY SITUATED PARTICIPANTS IN A MECHANICALLY IDENTICAL WAY.

L. THE WEST SEES NO OTHER WAY OF MEETING THE MAJOR CONCERNS
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OF BOTH SIDES THAN THROUGH THE MIXED-PACKAGE APPROACH IT HAS PROPOSED.

M. THE EAST HAS MADE NO MAJOR CHANGE OF SUBSTANCE TO ITS APPROACH SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE NEGOTIATIONS.

N. THE EAST'S FEB 19 PROPOSAL DOES NOT DEAL CONSTRUCTIVELY WITH THE GROUND FORCE INEQUALITIES NOR, IN ADDITION TO ITS OTHER

SHORTCOMINGS, DOES IT REPRESENT ANY SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE IN THE EASTERN POSITION ON PHASING.

O. AS HAS BEEN DEMONSTRATED BY THE DISCUSSION OF FORCE DEFINITIONS, EASTERN FAILURE TO PUT FORWARD DATA IS AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTING FACTOR TO THE CURRENT IMPASSE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS.

P. THE WEST BELIEVES THAT A DEFINITION SHOULD COVER ONLY NATO AND WARSAW PACT ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY PERSONNEL, AND THAT CIVILIANS, RESERVISTS AND PARAMILITARY PERSONNEL SHOULD BE EXCLUDED.

Q. IN REFERENCE TO HUNGARIAN REP'S REMARKS IN PLENARY ON APRIL 1 ON THE STATUS OF HUNGARY IN THE NEGOTIATIONS, THE WEST MAINTAINS ITS PREVIOUSLY STATED POSITION ON THIS QUESTION AND ON THE PARTICIPATION OF ITALY.

R. DESPITE THE IMPORTANT MOVE THE WEST MADE ON DEC 16, WHICH HAS SHOWN HOW PROGRESS CAN BE MADE, THE NEGOTIATIONS REMAIN IN AN IMPASSE.

S. THE WEST LOOKS FOR A POSITIVE EASTERN RESPONSE IN THE NEXT ROUND TO ITS DEC 16 PROPOSALS AND ALSO TO THE TABLING OF EASTERN DATA.

2. THE FULL TEXT OF THE US STATEMENT FOLLOWS BY AIRGRAM.RESOR

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